

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 611

By Casada

### A RESOLUTION recognizing the Crystal Valley Farm, a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the McCanless family of Williamson County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families; the Crystal Valley Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1869, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and varied history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, in 1869, James Thomas Carroll McCanless purchased 423 acres in the northeastern part of Williamson County, which he named the Crystal Valley Farm. On it, he grew cotton and small grains and raised cattle, sheep, and swine; and

WHEREAS, before his death in 1884, Mr. McCanless bequeathed land to his six oldest children, with the remainder to remain in the possession of his widow, the former Elizabeth Luviney Coleman, until her death or the end of her widowhood. Following her remarriage, Mr. McCanless's three youngest children, Ardeen, Nina June, and D. Brown, received their shares of their father's land; and

WHEREAS, Ardeen McCanless married William Johnson in 1885 and together they lived on the land left to her by her father. After William's death, Ardeen married his brother, James Johnson, and she continued to operate the farm until her death in 1946; and

WHEREAS, her son, John Johnson, farmed the land from 1946 until 1970, when the farm, now standing at 150 acres, was purchased by James Caldwell McCanless, Sr., the great-grandson of James Thomas Carroll McCanless; and

WHEREAS, the McCanless family, James Sr., his wife Barbara, and their children James Jr., Robin Carroll, and Jonathan Lee, worked the land of Crystal Valley Farm, raising livestock, corn, wheat, and hay; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like the members of the McCanless family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the McCanless family, whose Crystal Valley Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend them for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.